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1. CHOU EN-LAI EXPECTED TO VISIT EGYPT THIS YEAR

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Chou En-lai is expected to visit Egypt before the end of the year, according to an Egyptian government spokesman. This would be the first visit by the Chinese Communist premier to any country which does not recognize the Peiping regime.

Ever since the Asian-African conference at Bandung last spring, where Chou and Egyptian premier Nasr enjoyed close contacts, Cairo and Peiping have both indicated an interest in diplomatic relations. Egypt and Communist China have recently concluded agreements providing for the barter of Egyptian cotton for Chinese rolled steel.

Chou presumably hopes to gain Egyptian recognition of the Chinese Communist government and then to use Egyptian influence to induce Saudi Arabia and Syria to follow suit. While Egypt has used the recognition question as a device for seeking concessions from the United States, eventual recognition of Peiping would be in line with Nasr's tendency to adopt a "neutralist" position.

Chou's successes at Bandung suggested, and the Egyptian announcement further indicates, that Chou will play an increasingly important role in the Sino-Soviet bloc's efforts to expand and strengthen "neutralism" in the Near and Middle East.



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2. COMMENT ON CHINESE COMMUNIST PLANS FOR SINKIANG "AUTONOMY"

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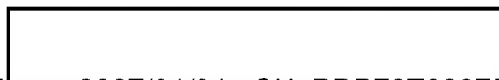
Peiping has announced that Sinkiang Province will be established as an "autonomous region" at the provincial congress next month. This province is larger by far than any of the other numerous areas declared "autonomous" by Peiping because of their predominantly non-Chinese populations.

Contrary to Chinese Nationalist assertions that Peiping's action in effect cedes Sinkiang to the Soviet Union, the Chinese Communists do not proclaim any area "autonomous" until confident of their military and political control of it. The Soviet Union, while profiting through the receipt of large quantities of mineral exports from Sinkiang, has apparently avoided interference with the Chinese Communist administration of the province.

Communist China's "autonomous" regions do not have even the nominal right to secede. Article 3 of Communist China's constitution states that "all areas of national autonomy are inseparable parts of the People's Republic of China," and Peiping has recently announced that regulations for the new region will be enforced with "the assistance and guidance" of the central government.



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3. ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SEEN RELAXING PRESSURE AGAINST COMMUNISTS

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[redacted] [redacted] the present Italian government is relaxing pressures against the Communist Party.

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The government has canceled orders to close a Communist-controlled school and has reissued passports which had been sequestered because Communists had used them for illegal travel to iron curtain countries. Such actions are considered a "logical" aftermath of the Geneva conference. [redacted]

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Comment

An anti-Communist program aimed at depriving the Communist Party and its affiliated labor unions of special privileges such as rent-free use of government property was announced with considerable fanfare by the Scelba government in March and December 1954. Though not fully implemented, the program had a noticeable impact in some areas.

Premier Segni has indicated that his approach to the problem of Communism is different from Scelba's. He has said he plans to attack the "causes rather than the symptoms" of Communism by undertaking economic reforms.